

STANISLAUS HOMELESS ALLIANCE

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 14, 2020
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Zoom Meeting

- I. **Roll Call – Stanislaus Homeless Alliance (SHA) Representatives**
Meeting called to order by Chairman Brad Hawn at 5:38pm. (See Attachment A for Roll Call)
- II. **Public Comment Period**
No public comment.
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. **Approval of the Minutes for the September 9, 2020 Meeting**
On a motion by Jason Conway and seconded by Luis Uribe, the minutes were unanimously approved (9/0). Modesto representatives were not present.
- IV. **COVID-19 Emergency Updates**
 - a. **COVID-19 Emergency Homeless Funding**
Tina Rocha, Deputy Executive Officer – Chief Executive Office, provided a status update on the Stanislaus Community System of Care (CSOC) COVID Emergency Funding issued in March. Funding was approved for use in the following three priority areas: a) support all existing homeless shelters to address COVID 19, b) develop new shelter space and support outreach to and hygiene needs of unsheltered homes to address COVID-19; and c) allocate funds to provide wraparound services at new shelter spaces to address COVID-19. The deadline to identify programs for expenditure was June 30, 2020. The CSOC approved a spending plan for the \$344,000. To date, there has been \$101,000 in approved expenditures. An overview of the actual amounts expended and encumbered by priority area was shown. The State extended the spending deadline, authorizing the approval of eligible expenses incurred after March 19th and past the June 30th. Homeless shelters were notified additional COVID related expenses incurred from March 19th until now are potentially eligible for reimbursement.
 - b. **Existing Homeless Shelter**
Dana Bailey, Assistant Director - Housing & Homeless Services Division, provided the update on Existing Homeless Shelters. Shelter directors meet virtually on a weekly basis to provide updates on their COVID-19 response. The forum gives them an opportunity to share their information and discuss gaps and needs and best practices. On the recent call, news was shared about the shelters new ability to potentially request reimburse for costs related to COVID. There was discussion about the demobilization plan for the Modesto Hotel and the potential impacts for their shelters. HUD guidance was shared

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regarding preparations for the winter months and protocols that could be helpful as shelters prepare for mitigating COVID. Shelters were encouraged to request additional PPE during the winter months if necessary and to track their burn rate (how fast they are using supplies) so we know how much to order.

c. **Project Roomkey – The Modesto Hotel**

i. **Demobilization Plan**

Tina Rocha, Deputy Executive Officer – Chief Executive Office, reported the Modesto Hotel non-congregate shelter serving those 65 years or older or who have underlining health conditions is currently sheltering 73 individuals. On September 15th the Board of Supervisors authorized an additional \$837,800 in appropriations to provide funding through December 31st. A graphic depicting ethnicity and race demographics of those at the Modesto Hotel was shown. A graphic for the proposed demobilization strategy and timelines was shown. The remaining guests were notified of the demobilization plan and received counseling on potential housing strategies to meet their needs. Homeless Management Information System(HMIS) exits are scheduled for November and staff is working to develop a transportation plan, begin the restoration of the rooms, and hold a flu vaccine clinic. December will include relocating individuals to their shelter of origin, finalizing restoration of the rooms, and a final walk-through with the property owner. The objective is to return the site to the owner by the end of December.

Chairman Brad Hawn asked whether the program could be extended until COVID is over. Tina said there has been no announcement at the state level of additional funding to continue the program and the CARES Act funds must be expended by the December deadline.

CEO Jody Hayes spoke about the original goal of the COVID 19 emergency response and the struggles between local and state government and the effects of demobilizing. He is optimistic about a successful the transition.

V. **Reports**

- a. **Stanislaus Community Response Guidelines (SCRG) for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness** – Kyle De Jesus, Program Manager for the Community Services Agency, shared the SHA about the concept of an outreach and engagement protocol to address homeless encampments in the community. The draft protocols, called the Stanislaus Community Response Guidelines (SCRG), was presented for endorsement by the SHA. A working group consisting of representatives from various public agencies involved in homeless response had input on the guidelines. Kyle reviewed the purpose, intent and

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overall goal and the role of the lead agency. He covered situations where a multi-agency response would apply, the procedure, and criteria to move an encampment as well as outreach efforts and next steps. Pending additional feedback from the Stanislaus Homeless Alliance and Community System of Care, the next step would involve a presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

Turlock Councilmember Andrew Nosrati asked about Assembly Bill 1421, Laura's Law, regarding court-ordered community treatment for individuals with a history of hospitalization and contact with law enforcement and the impact to the plan. Ruben Imperial, Director - Behavior Health and Recovery Services, responded to the inquiry, providing information about a local pilot program developed in response to Laura's Law. Ruben will provide the group with a flyer that informs the community on the bill and referral process. Chairman Brad Hawn requested a report next time on the CARE team with updates.

The SCRG was endorsed unanimously by the SHA.

- b. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and ESRI GIS mapping project –** Jessica Narayan, Community Development Manager with the City of Modesto, introduced a pilot program developed to report real time data in the HMIS system. A CSOC subcommittee is researching the adoption of uniform data protocols to collect uniform data sets in order to measure successes as a community. The protocols would be available for use by multiple outreach providers. The subcommittee will bring the updated data sets and success measures back to CSOC and SHA for review. The subcommittee is also looking into an expansion of the use of the ESRI geo-mapping program used by the Modesto Police Department and Stanislaus County Sheriff. It allows for the collection of forms electronically and in real time through a data dashboard. The subcommittee is working in partnership with ESRI experts and the HMIS provider to develop the new system to ensure that the data entered can directly correlate into HMIS system. There will be updates in the upcoming months.

Community member Ms. Martinez asked about the process for individuals to address personal belongings during the removal of encampments. Chief Galen Carroll went over the procedures for the claiming of property and storage.

- c. Governor's 100-Day Challenge – What's Next Workshop**

Kyle De Jesus reviewed the Governor's project to address homelessness with innovative solutions. Although the 100-day project concluded in September, a follow up effort is still underway to continue to house the remaining clients at Project Roomkey. The Stanislaus county project and its achievements will be reviewed and discussed at an

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upcoming workshop from the Rapid Results Institute on October 19th from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

d. 2021 Point-in-Time Count

- i. **ACTION- Endorse 2020 Point-in-time Count Methodology and use of the Incident Command System (ICS) for planning and execution-** Kyle De Jesus went over the activities of the planning committee involved in the upcoming 2020/2021 Point-in-Time Count. Additional guidance from HUD with protocols to conduct an unsheltered count is still pending. A chart was shown to give a visual of what the PIT count timeline and the organization chart of the chain of command. Volunteers will work alongside trained outreach workers to engage homeless individuals in the field. He covered the requirements for the training. More information and instructions will be sent through the Community System of Care. The sheltered count is scheduled for January 27th and the unsheltered count is scheduled for January 28th. He is asking for the SHA and CSOC to endorse the PIT methodology and use of incident command system for execution.

On a motion by Luis Uribe and seconded by Andrew Nosrati, the 2020/2021 PIT count methodology as described was endorsed. It was unanimously approved (9/0). Modesto representatives were not present.

- e. **Coordinated Entry System (CES) Policies and Procedures Review** – Dana Bailey reminded the group that the community uses the Coordinated Entry Process to identify individuals to prioritize for housing based on their vulnerability. Providers and agencies that report into HMIS conduct weekly meetings to discuss and update individuals in the coordinated entry system. The system has been used successfully to help house individuals at the Kansas House project and other housing sources. At this point in the process the coordinated entry participants have paused the process to review lessons learned and to determine how these learnings can be incorporated into the HMIS policies and procedures. HUD has also issued new guidance related to equity and COVID response which must also be incorporated into the policies and procedures. The participants in Coordinated Entry System have developed four working groups that will work in teams to review and update our current policies and procedures manual. The teams will include the Assessment Team, Housing Match and Prioritization Team, Document Team, and Housing Placement Team. They each have developed an action plan and a timeline for implementation. The teams will come back together as a whole to present recommendations. When those are finalized a draft will be created and will go before the HMIS subcommittee for review in January. The final draft tentatively scheduled for presentation to CSOC and SHA in February.

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- f. **Homeless Action Plan Subcommittee** – Chairman Hawn reported the group met with Homebase, the consultant for the strategic plan development. The plan is designed for annual review and to produce accountability metrics. Chair Hawn went over the four phases of the timeline.

Community member Mr. Donoso asked to be a part of the process.

VI. Funding

- a. **City of Modesto Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus (ESG-CV) and Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus (ESG-CV) and Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funding** - Jessica Narayan gave an update on the City of Modesto's Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) funding which was approved by Congress on March 27th for the preparation, response, and prevention of COVID-19. HUD funding was available nationwide in the amount of \$5 billion in Community Development Block Grant Funds and \$4 billion in Emergency Solutions Grant Funds. She the City of Modesto's allocation and what activities are eligible. As part of the new funding there were new policies created as a mechanism to ensure the non-duplication of benefits. The City of Modesto introduced pilot project Camp-2-Home, designed to help move the needle of homelessness in the community. The City also proposed a million dollar set aside for homelessness prevention through rental and mortgage assistance. Their goal is to get 25 people housed for the year.

Community member Mr. Donoso asked about job training and tracking. Barbara Krauss, Executive Director – Stanislaus Housing Authority, stressed housing is a nationwide problem but they are addressing it at every level and are working on affordable housing in the community.

CEO Jody Hayes thanked the City of Modesto Downtown Streets Team.

Councilmember Nosrati and Chairman Hawn gave kudos as well.

- b. **Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Found II funding** – Leng Power, Program Manager for the Community Services Agency, gave a report on the HHAP allocation. There is no update and the county is still waiting on the state to release program guidance and notice of program funding availability. Stanislaus county is expecting an allocation of approximately \$959,379. The Community System of Care the allocation is anticipated at a little over a million dollars.
- c. **Emergency Solutions Grants Program – Coronavirus (ESG-CV) Notice of Funding Availability (Round 2)** – Tina Rocha announced California Housing and Community Development (HCD) released round two of the Emergency Solutions Grant funding through the CARES act. The Stanislaus community will receive approximately \$22.7 million through the Community System of Care as the entity recognized by HUD as the

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continuum of care. The state has prioritized funds to serve those at risk of or currently homeless and required all eligible persons receive equitable services with dignity, respect and compassion regardless of circumstance, ability or identity. An item to request Board of Supervisor authorization to process is scheduled for October 27th and the application deadline to the State was extended until November 11th. The funds must be expended by July 30, 2022. Lists of eligible activities were discussed including the requirement to advance racial equity. The Administrative Entity is currently the County Planning Department. The CSOC plans to conduct a Special meeting October 21st at 2:30 to seek input on expending the funds within the community. Clarifications about the categories was provided.

VII. **SHA Representative Updates**

Ceres: No updates

Modesto: Caluha Barnes, Deputy City Manager City of Modesto, followed up on the conversation about employment and said they are close to hiring four homeless individuals to work with the Modesto Police Department Abatement Team. They are making progress on a program to provide permanent and supportive housing and senior housing units. The Archway Commons project is moving forward with 74 units of affordable rental units.

Focus on Prevention: Chairman Hawn gave an update on the groups ongoing efforts to develop a work plan to expand its collaborative approach to homelessness. There is talk of an organization that wants to spearhead a health initiative in the county, which includes a Cradle to Career project that is in initial stages.

Oakdale: Councilmember Christopher Smith shared they used CARES Act funding to renovate the outside of the Morrison House that distributes lunches.

Turlock: Councilmember Andrew Nosrati shared that last month Turlock began developing a comprehensive plan to tackle homelessness in the community. They are exploring replicating a CARE unit to more effectively work on homeless outreach and considering the creation of an RFP process for a work program. Last month Turlock transitioned a house to Family Promise.

Riverbank: Councilmember Luis Uribe said thank you to Kyle and the outreach team for coming out to Riverbank once a month. The team will be out again on Friday at 8:30 am. The Central Valley Community Resources will also be there helping with impact payments.

Stanislaus County: Supervisor Terry Withrow commended everyone on their efforts and what they have been able to accomplish with these programs that have been discussed at the meeting.

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Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority: Councilmember Barbara Krauss reported the Oak Leaf Meadows project is now accepting applications through the builder website. It is a great example of community partnerships to create housing projects for the community. She thanked the Stanislaus County Health Department for their assistance with a COVID outbreak at their farmworker and migrant housing project. Public Health was able to map the cluster quickly and conduct testing of the site to stop the spread quickly.

Patterson – Councilmember Cynthia Homen gave an updates on Naomi’s house. They are on schedule and looking at the end of October or early November for opening the low income apartment project which look beautiful and hope to have some people moved in by December 31st.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

ATTACHMENT A - ROLL CALL Stanislaus Homeless Alliance Board Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Attendance

1	City of Ceres	Mike Kline	Primary	P
		Tom Westbrook	Alternate	A
2	City of Modesto	Ted Brandvold	Primary	A
		Joe Lopez	Alternate	A
3	City of Oakdale	Christopher Smith	Primary	P
		Bryan Whitemyer	Alternate	A
4	City of Patterson	Cynthia Homen	Primary	P
		Ken Irwin	Alternate	A
5	City of Riverbank	Luis Uribe	Primary	P
		Sean Scully	Alternate	A
6	City of Turlock	Andrew Nosrati	Primary	P
		Toby Wells	Alternate	A
7	Community System of Care	VACANT	Primary	-
		Jason Conway	Alternate	P
8	Focus on Prevention	Brad Hawn	Primary	P

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		Tim Byrd	Alternate	A
9	Stanislaus County	Terry Withrow	Primary	P
		Jody Hayes	Alternate	P
10	Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority	Carlos Estacio III	Primary	A
		Barbara Kauss	Alternate	P

A – Absent

P - Present